



## MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address:  SOUTHWEST GENERAL HOSPITAL 7400 BARLITE BLVD SAN ANTONIO TX 78224	MFDR Tracking #: M4-07-4960-01  DWC Claim #:  Injured Employee:
Respondent Name and Box #:  TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGO Box #: 19	Date of Injury:  Employer Name:  Insurance Carrier #:

### PART II: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "An audit of all of the Hospital's non-governmental managed care contract reimbursement rates has confirmed the average reimbursement for this same outpatient surgical procedure is 65% of the Hospital's billed charges. Based on compliance with Rule §134.401 and an impartial and just "fair and reasonable" allowance, the Hospital should be paid nothing less than 65% for this claim"

**Amount in Dispute:** \$5,611.06

### PART III: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "Because Requestor has failed to prove that the reimbursement received is not fair and reasonable, Requestor is not entitled to further reimbursement"

### PART IV: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Denial Code(s)	Disputed Service	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
04/25/06	504, W10, B13 and W4	Outpatient Surgery	\$5,611.06	\$0.00
<b>Total Due:</b>				\$0.00

### PART V: REVIEW OF SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY AND EXPLANATION

Texas Labor Code §413.011(a-d), titled *Reimbursement Policies and Guidelines*, and Division rule at 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, titled *Use of the Fee Guidelines*, effective May 16, 2002 set out the reimbursement guidelines.

This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on April 05, 2007.

- For the services involved in this dispute, the respondent reduced or denied payment with reason code:
  - 504 – Allowed fee appears reasonable for service
  - W10 – Payment – fair and reasonable methodology
  - B13 – Payment for service may have been previously paid
  - W4 – No additional payment allowed after review
- This dispute relates to outpatient surgical services provided in a hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1, effective May 16, 2002, 27 TexReg 4047, which requires that "Reimbursement for services not identified in an established fee guideline shall be reimbursed at fair and reasonable rates as described in the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, §413.011 until such period that specific fee guidelines are established by the commission."
- Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the

increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.

4. Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iv), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires that the request shall include a position statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue." Review of the requestor's documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iv).
5. Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(c)(2)(G), effective December 31, 2006, 31 TexReg 10314, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 15, 2007, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement) when the dispute involves health care for which the Division has not established a maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR), as applicable." Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
  - The requestor's position statement states that "An audit of all of the Hospital's non-governmental managed care contract reimbursement rates has confirmed the average reimbursement for this same outpatient surgical procedure is 65% of the Hospital's billed charges. Based on compliance with Rule §134.401 and an impartial and just "fair and reasonable" allowance, the Hospital should be paid nothing less than 65% for this claim"
  - The requestor does not discuss or explain how payment of 65% of the Hospital's billed charges would result in a fair and reasonable reimbursement.
  - The requestor did not submit documentation to support that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement.
  - The requestor did not submit data or documentation of their audit of the hospital's non-governmental managed care contract reimbursement rates to support that the average reimbursement for the disputed service is 65% of the hospital's billed charges
  - The Division has previously found that a reimbursement methodology based upon payment of a hospital's billed charges, or a percentage of billed charges, does not produce an acceptable payment amount. This methodology was considered and rejected by the Division in the *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline* adoption preamble which states at 22 Texas Register 6276 (July 4, 1997) that:

"A discount from billed charges was another method of reimbursement which was considered. Again, this method was found unacceptable because it leaves the ultimate reimbursement in the control of the hospital, thus defeating the statutory objective of effective cost control and the statutory standard not to pay more than for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living. It also provides no incentive to contain medical costs, would be administratively burdensome for the Commission and system participants, and would require additional Commission resources."
  - The requestor did not discuss or explain how payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

6. The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iv) and §133.307(c)(2)(G). The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

## **PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES**

Texas Labor Code §413.011(a-d), §413.031 and §413.0311  
28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, §134.1  
Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, Subchapter G

## PART VII: DIVISION DECISION

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is not entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute.

### DECISION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

10/22/10

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PART VIII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with other required information specified in Division rule at 28 TAC §148.3(c).

Under Texas Labor Code §413.0311, your appeal will be handled by a Division hearing under Title 28 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 142 Rules if the total amount sought does not exceed \$2,000. If the total amount sought exceeds \$2,000, a hearing will be conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings under Texas Labor Code §413.031.

**Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.**